

Appl. No. 10/779,445

Amtdt. Dated June 8, 2006

Reply to Office Action of March 13, 2006

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office action mailed March 13, 2006. Reexamination and reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-35 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 14, 18, 23, and 35 being the independent claims. The Applicants thank the Examiner for finding allowable subject matter in claims 2-5, 7, 21, 22, 24-27, and 29 and for allowing claims 14-17. Claims 1, 18, and 23 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 2, 21, and 24, respectively. Accordingly, claims 2, 21, and 24 have been cancelled. New claim 35 has been added. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 6, 8-13, 18-20, 23, 28, and 30-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,000,213 to Eves et al. ("Eves"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As mentioned above, the Examiner has found allowable subject matter in claims 2, 21, and 24. Claims 1, 18, and 23 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter in those claims. Specifically, claims 1 and 23 now recite, *inter alia*, a main body having first and second ends and a sleeve coupled to the main body first end, and claim 18 now recites, *inter alia*, shaping a tube to include a leading edge, a trailing edge, first and second ends and a passageway that extends therebetween and coupling a sleeve to the tube first end. Accordingly, claims 1, 18, and 23 and the claims that depend therefrom should now be allowable.

New Claim 35

New claim 35, which relates to a filter configured to be disposed within an air passage, for providing filtered air to a pneumatically controlled component, has been added. Claim 35 recites a main body having first and second ends and a passageway extending therebetween, a leading edge, a trailing edge, and first and second sides, the first and second sides each being substantially solid and having first and second ends, the

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first and second side first ends joined together at the leading edge, and the first and second side second ends, converging at least proximate the trailing edge, and separated from one another by a longitudinal slit that extends along a section thereof, wherein the leading edge is configured to divide a main airflow containing particles into first and second airflow portions, the first airflow portion containing particles and being directed through the air passage and the second airflow portion being substantially particle-free and directed through the longitudinal slit into the main body passage. These features are found at least in FIGs. 2, 3, 3A, and 3B. Hence, no new matter has been added.

Moreover, Eves does not disclose the features recited in claim 35. Specifically, nowhere does Eves teach or suggest first and second sides of a main body that are each substantially solid and have first and second ends, where the first and second side first ends are joined together at the leading edge, and the first and second side second ends converge at least proximate the trailing edge and are separated from one another by a longitudinal slit that extends along a section thereof. Accordingly, claim 35 should be allowable.

Conclusion

Based on the above, independent Claims 1, 14, 18, 23, and 35 are patentable over the citations of record. The dependent claims are also deemed patentable for the reasons given above with respect to the independent claims and because each recite features which are patentable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

The other art of record is also not understood to disclose or suggest the inventive concept of the present invention as defined by the claims.

Hence, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

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If for some reason Applicant has not paid a sufficient fee for this response, please consider this as authorization to charge Ingrassia, Fisher & Lorenz, Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

INGRASSIA FISHER & LORENZ

Dated: 6/8/06

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